

What is claimed is:

1. A computerized system for locating a lost or stolen pet wherein a system subscriber maintains a remote computer terminal, said system comprising:

5 a web host connected to the Internet network, said web host having a computer readable medium;

a location unit for being carried by the pet for calculating the location of the pet at any given time; and

10 a computer program having instructions embodied in computer readable code residing on said web host for receiving a tracking request from the subscriber, transmitting a tracking call to said location unit, receiving back location data from said location unit representing the current position of the pet automatically in response to said tracking request, and transmitting the location data to said subscriber whereby the location of the pet is displayed at the subscriber's terminal.

15 2. The system of claim 1 wherein said computer readable instructions include:

input instructions for receiving said tracking request signal from the remote user via the Internet, said tracking request having a pet location unit identification;

processing instructions for receiving said tracking request and processing and routing said tracking request;

20 communication instructions initializing wireless communication with said location unit;

location instructions responsive to said processing instructions for generating said tracking call and outputting said call to the location unit and for receiving said location data from said pet location unit, and

5 a display module for outputting said location data for display of the location unit's position by the remote user via the Internet.

3. The system of claim 2 wherein said input instructions are contained in an input module, said communication instructions are contained in a communication module, said location instructions are contained in a location module, and said display instructions are contained in a display module; and including a main 10 processing module for calling said communication, location, and display modules to carry out their respective instructions.

4. The system of claim 3 wherein said validation instructions are contained in a validation module called by said main module.

5. The system of claim 1 wherein said computer readable instructions 15 include:

formatting instructions for formatting said location data into a display map of the current location of the location unit, and display instructions for outputting said map to the remote user via the Internet.

6. The system of claim 5 wherein said display map includes a position 20 indicator indicating the current location.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein said tracking request includes a unit identification number, and said computer readable instructions include:

validation instructions for comparing said unit identification number to an access code stored on said web host, and said instructions allowing said input instructions to generate said tracking call when said unit identification number corresponds to an authorized access code.

5 8. The system of claim 1 wherein said location unit comprises:

 an enclosure;

 a location chip carried within the enclosure for receiving geo-position information;

 a processor for receiving said geo-position information and generating pet

10 location data representing the position of the unit;

 a transceiver for transmitting said location data to a remote station in response to a call signal being received from said remote station;

 said processor controlling said transceiver to transmit said location data in response to automatically answering said call signal from said remote station; and

15 a power supply for supplying power to said location chip, said processor and said transceiver.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein said location chip is a GPS chip for receiving geo-position information from a global positioning system.

10 The system of claim 8 wherein a computer readable medium is included within said processor and including:

 a set of computer instructions embodied in said computer readable medium wherein said instructions perform the steps of:

detecting a tracking request;
requesting tracking information from said location chip;
generating location data from said tracking information; and,
providing said location data for transmission to a remote location.

5 11. The system of claim 10 wherein said instructions include means embodied in computer readable code for returning said processor to a standby mode after transmission of said location data to said remote location.

12. The system of claim 8 wherein said location data is embodied in a digital packet containing digital data only, and having no audio signal component.

10 13. The device of claim 12 wherein said digital packet includes access code data identifying a specific object to which the device is assigned and location data.

14. The system of claim 1 where said pet location unit is carried by a collar to be worn about the neck of the pet.

15 15. The system of claim 14 including tamper resistant means for securing said unit to the pet collar.

16. The system of claim 15 including a protector key automatically transmitting location data to the web host in the event of an unauthorized removal of the pet collar and location unit from the pet.

20 17. The system of claim 14 wherein said location unit is integral as one piece with said pet collar.

18. The system of claim 14 wherein said location unit includes a unit fastening device carried by the housing for attachment of said housing to said pet collar.

5 19. The system of claim 18 wherein said fastening device comprises special fasteners for attachment to spaced portion of the pet collar.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein said housing is contoured to fit with the collar around the pet's neck.

10 21. A system for deterring and preventing theft of a pet from a system subscriber who affixes a location unit to the pet whose theft is to be deterred wherein said location unit calculates the location of the pet at any given time, said system comprising:

a web host connected to the Internet network, said web host having a computer readable medium;

15 said web host being accessible by the subscriber from a remote computer terminal;

a computer program residing on said web host for receiving a tracking request from the subscriber permitting a tracking call to the location unit carried by the pet; and ✓

20 said computer program including instructions embodied in computer readable code for automatically transmitting said tracking call, receiving location data from the location unit in response to said tracking call, and transmitting the location data to the subscriber's terminal where the current location of the pet is displayed.

22. The system of claim 21 wherein said web host is accessible concurrently by a plurality of subscribers for sending out concurrent tracking calls to a plurality of respective location units carried by pets sought to be located.

23 The system of claim 21 wherein said computer readable instructions include:

formatting instructions for formatting said location data into a display map of the current location of the location unit, and display instructions for outputting said map to the remote user via the Internet.

24 The system of claim 23 wherein said display map includes a position indicator indicating the current location.

25. The system of claim 23 wherein said tracking request includes a unit identification number, and said computer readable instructions include:

validation instructions for comparing said unit identification number to an access code stored on said web host, and said instructions allowing said input instructions to generate said tracking call when said unit identification number corresponds to an authorized access code.

26. The system of claim 23 including a pet location unit having a computer processor and including:

a set of computer instructions embodied in a computer readable medium on said processor wherein said instructions perform the steps of automatically: detecting a tracking request; requesting tracking information from said location chip;

generating location data from said tracking information; and,
providing said location data for transmission to said web host.

27. The system of claim 23 wherein said location data is embodied in
a digital packet containing digital data only having no audio signal component.

5 28. The system of claim 23 wherein said location unit includes a
processor and transceiver; and said processor including instruction embodied in
computer readable code so that said location unit automatically answers a tracking
call, transmits said location data to said web host, hangs up, and returns to a standby
mode.

10 29. A computerized method of locating lost or stolen pets wherein
subscribers have computer terminals with displays, said method comprising:

providing a web host connectable to a plurality of the subscriber terminals
concurrently over the Internet;

providing a plurality of location units for affixation to pets;

15 receiving a tracking request at said web host initiated at said subscriber's
terminal seeking the present location of a pet;

transmitting a tracking call to the location unit whose location is desired in
response to receiving said tracking request;

20 receiving location data at said web host from the location unit representing
the current location of the pet in response to said tracking call; and

transmitting said location data to the computer terminal of the subscriber
for display of the current location of the pet on the subscriber's terminal display.

30. The method of claim 26 including placing said location unit on said pet by physically attaching a collar to the pet which carries said location unit.

31. The method of claim 30 including incorporating the location unit into the collar as an integrated construction wherein said location unit includes a contoured housing contoured to the pet's neck.

5 32. The method of claim 30 including automatically transmitting location data to the web host in the event of an unauthorized removal of the pet collar from the pet.

10 33. The method of claim 26 including placing said location unit on said pet by securing said location unit to a collar worn by the pet.

34. The method of claim 28 including providing a computer program residing on said web host for receiving a tracking request from the subscriber and transmitting a tracking call to the location unit carried by the pet; and

15 said computer program includes the steps of automatically transmitting said tracking call, receiving location data from the location unit in response to said tracking call, and transmitting the location data to the computer terminal of the subscriber where the current location of the pet is displayed.

35. The method of claim 34 wherein said computer program includes instructions which include the steps of:

20 receiving said tracking request signal from the subscriber via the Internet, said tracking request having a pet location unit identification;

receiving said tracking request and processing and routing said tracking request;

initializing wireless communication with the location unit;

processing instructions for generating said tracking call and outputting said call to the location unit and for receiving said location data from said location unit, and

5 outputting said location data for display of the location unit's position by the remote user via the Internet.

36. The method of claim 29 including providing concurrent access to said web host from a plurality of subscribers for sending out concurrent tracking calls to a plurality of respective pet location units carried by pets sought to be located.

10 37. A method of locating lost or stolen pets from and the like wherein the subscribers have computer terminals with displays, said method comprising:

subscribing to a web host accessible from the subscriber terminal;

15 assigning a pet location unit to the pet to be located by physically attaching the location unit on the pet;

initiating a tracking request at said subscriber's terminal which is transmitted to said web host whereby a tracking call is transmitted from said web host to the location unit assigned to the pet and location data representing the location of the pet is transmitted to said web host from the location unit; and

20 receiving said location data at on said subscriber's terminal and displaying the location of the pet on the subscriber's terminal display.

38. The method of claim 37 including placing said location unit on said pet by securing a collar to the pet which carries said location unit.

39. The method of claim 38 including providing said collar and location unit in an integrated construction.

5 40. The method of claim 38 including automatically transmitting location data to the web host in the event of an unauthorized removal of the collar and location unit from the pet.

10 41. The method of claim 37 wherein said location unit includes a housing and said method comprises securing said housing at spaced positions to said collar.

42. The method of claim 41 wherein said housing carries spaced openings through which said collar extends to encircle the pet's neck.